

duplication of the software programs, the protection means including:

an image file having an internal configuration of a specially formatted disk [separate storage medium], at least one of the software programs being stored in the image file; and
an image driver configured to prevent unauthorized access to the software program in the image file;

sample means for enabling any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user, for allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, for maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means [including an independent configured] using the image driver to control authorized access to the selected software program in the image file; and

monitoring means for generating a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.

13 (Twice Amended). A system for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs on a user-selected computer and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising:

receive means for receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for maintaining each of the software programs in an undivided locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for enabling any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user on the user-selected computer [any digital computer having components capable of processing computer readable program code of the selected software program], for allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, for maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the user-selected computer; and

monitoring means for generating a code for use in unlocking the software programs and for including in the code an identification of which of the software programs [were] was sampled by the user and how many times each of the software programs [were] was sampled by the user.

14 (Twice Amended). A computerized method for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising the steps executed by a computer of:

receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

maintaining each of the software programs in a locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs, the maintaining step using an image file having an internal configuration of a specially formatted disk with at least one of the software programs being stored in [an] the image file [having an internal configuration of a separate storage medium], the maintaining step using an image driver configured to prevent unauthorized access to the software program in the image file;

enabling any of the software programs in the image file for execution upon selection by a user, the enabling step using [an independent] the image driver configured [particularly] to control authorized access to the image file, allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program; and

generating a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.

26 (Twice Amended). A computer program product, comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a user-selected computer to demonstrate software programs to a potential purchaser of the

programs on the user-selected computer and to gather marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, the user-selected computer being a computer on which the software program may be used if the software program is purchased by the potential purchaser [any digital computer having components capable of processing computer readable program code of the software programs], the computer readable program code means in the computer program product comprising:

receive means for causing the computer to receive a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for causing the computer to maintain each of the software programs in an undivided locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for causing the user-selected computer to enable any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user, allow the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, maintain the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and selectively disable the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the user-selected computer; and

monitoring means for causing the user-selected computer to generate a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.

27 (Amended). A system for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs on a user-selected computer and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising:

electronic receive means for electronically receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for maintaining each of the software programs in an undivided locked state, without the need for generating random files, in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for enabling any of the software programs for execution on the user-selected computer upon selection by a user [on any digital computer selected by the user and having components capable of processing computer readable program code of the selected software program], for allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, for maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the user-selected digital computer; and

monitoring means for generating a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.